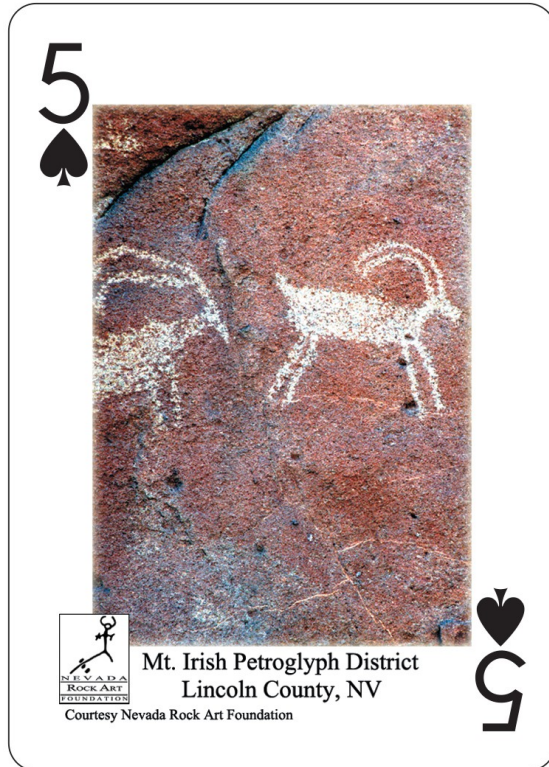


# Mt. Irish Petroglyph District

## Lincoln County



The Mt. Irish Petroglyph District, located on the eastern flanks of the Mt. Irish Range, comprises 640 acres of rock art sites dating back approximately 4,000 years. The Bureau of Land Management has created interpretive trails and a trail guide for the three largest rock art sites in the district.

Two major styles of rock art have been recorded at Mt. Irish. The Pahrnatag Style is a localized tradition found mostly at sites in Pahrnatag Valley and is unique to Lincoln County. In this style, people are portrayed as ovals or rectangles with large eyes and long fingers, sometimes holding atlatls (spear throwers) suggesting creation before the introduction of the bow and arrow, over 1,500 years ago. The Basin and Range Tradition is the second style found in the district. It is more characteristic of rock art found in other parts of Nevada and the Great Basin. People are portrayed as stick figures. A large number of animal species, most commonly bighorn sheep, are represented within the district.

The Mt. Irish petroglyphs provide archaeologists with the opportunity to examine changes in rock art styles through the migration of people or diffusion of beliefs and ideas from other places, and to trace the use of a particular landscape to continue cultural practices over time.

For more information on Nevada's significant rock art and to join the effort to protect these resources visit:

<http://www.nvrockart.org/>

